



# Howard County Government News Release

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## **County Executive Ball Announces La Alianza Latina Workgroup and Observation of Indigenous People's Day**

ELLICOTT CITY, MD – Today, County Executive Calvin Ball marked the beginning of Hispanic Heritage Month by announcing the newly formulated La Alianza Latina Workgroup (Latin Alliance) and recognizing Indigenous People's Day in place of Columbus Day.

"Diversity is a hallmark of Howard County, and our Latino community serves a vital role in contributing to the cultural vibrancy that makes our County one of the most attractive locations to live, work and play in the country," said Ball. "But for many of our new residents – and those who have lived in Howard County for years – certain services and programs seem out of reach. La Alianza Latina Workgroup will not only provide a seat at the table, but access to government to implement long-lasting change. Additionally, we're pleased to take another step to rectify and recognize the impact of Native Americans and Indigenous people whose land we occupy today. Celebrating Indigenous People's Day does not absolve us from our history, but we hope that it sets a tone and opens up discussions on the importance of restorative practices throughout our government and our community."

La Alianza will be made up of 16 Howard County residents, representing backgrounds throughout Central and South America. The workgroup will address many of the concerns and struggles of the Latino and immigrant community – such as how to access community resources, support for starting a business or buying a home, health

disparities and outcomes, and ensuring there is adequate support for young Latinos in Howard County schools.

For more information about the workgroup and/or to get into contact with them, please email [alianzalatina@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:alianzalatina@howardcountymd.gov).

To view the press conference, click [here](#).